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POLAND: Pastoral Letter

Poland's bishops on Sunday will read a statement calling for an end to martial law. Local authorities in Poznan are showing greater concern about security. The Poles claim that they can pay overdue interest for 1981 by the middle of February.

A letter from Poland's bishops to be read in churches on Sunday calls on the regime to rescind its repressive martial law measures to avoid inciting violence or "even civil war." The message emphatically repeats the Church's call for the release of detainees, an end to the regime's "verification" campaign, and the restoration of independent trade unions and youth groups.

Comment: The pastoral letter, which apparently resulted from Archbishop Glemp's meeting Tuesday with senior bishops, gives broader dissemination to Glemp's privately expressed fears that the current impasse in Poland could cause serious social turmoil. The Church leaders probably hope to impress upon Premier Jaruzelski the urgency of announcing significant concessions in his policy address now scheduled for Monday. The bishops may have hit the point even harder in their personal letter to Jaruzelski.

Authorities Focus on Poznan

signs of increasing concern by the local authorities and [redacted] there may be a significant shift under way in the public mood. The security forces are making more frequent checks of pedestrians' documents, are continuously manning roadblocks around the city, and are watching more intently the local universities, which remain largely closed. The governor, who had been away for a week, seemed uninformed of security arrangements and claimed local interior ministry officials established such controls on their own.

Comment: The governor's apparent ignorance of the security situation lends credence to other evidence that security authorities are playing the key role in running the country. If the mood in Poznan is turning sour, it would be a significant development.

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Poznan has been one of the quieter areas in Poland since the imposition of martial law, even though it houses several large universities and important industrial enterprises. The regime at one point felt so confident that Poznan was under control it allowed Western journalists to visit the city as part of their first guided tour outside of Warsaw. [REDACTED]

Debt Rescheduling

Poland's foreign trade bank claims that it is prepared to pay overdue interest and other fees for 1981 to banks by 15 February and to sign the private debt rescheduling agreement for 1981 on 28 February. [REDACTED]

Comment: This is the firmest commitment to date by Poland to cover its obligations for last year. [REDACTED]

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Military Activity

The Soviets have further reduced their contingency arrangements in Poland.



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